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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

NORTH KOREA

"WE SHOULD NOT GIVE IN TO NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT"

Conservative Dong-a Ilbo editorialized (09/05): "The international community, including the UN, must consistently maintain its position that it will strengthen sanctions in response to North Korea's threat. Cooperation between the ROK and the U.S. should be, of course, watertight... The two nations should remind the North that the only solution (to the current standoff) is for the North to return to the Six-Party Talks and take a path toward denuclearization. They also need to clearly warn Pyongyang that additional provocations will only ratchet up sanctions against the North. China should now take specific actions so that the North will change its attitude."

"HOW SHOULD WE DEAL WITH NORTH KOREA, WHICH HAS NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING ITS NUCLEAR AMBITIONS?"

Conservative Chosun Ilbo editorialized (09/05): "It is more realistic to think that the North Korean nuclear issue does not depend on the outcome of the Six-Party Talks or U.S.-North Korea dialogue but on (the survival of) the North Korean regime. To date, the international community has tried to ignore a pessimistic view that Pyongyang will never give up its nuclear ambitions as long as it survives. However, a moment of truth will arrive some day, and then, everyone will have to face up to the reality... While managing the situation regarding the North with pressure and dialogue, we should prepare for the moment that will determine the fate of the Korean Peninsula."

"NORTH'S RIDICULOUS POSTURING"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (09/05): "We should not repeatedly give in to North Korea's threats and start negotiating with the nation... We should demonstrate that we will respond sternly to North Korea's provocations whenever they come. We need to demand evidence that the North is genuine about denuclearization. We should adhere to the current position that only when the North shows sincerity will negotiations be possible."

"NORTH KOREA'S LETTER: REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATIONS"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (09/05): "What is critical now is the creation of an effective negotiation framework in order to completely resolve the nuclear issue while controlling the factors (that might lead to) conflict. The U.S. and China talks have demonstrated these efforts, and the visit of U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy Stephen Bosworth to Seoul on Saturday can be seen as related (to these efforts to create a negotiation framework.) The problem facing us now is speed and depth. Matters could proceed on a positive note once dialogue begins, however, further delay could have a negative effect. Every participating country should work with this in mind and stop waiting around for a better environment to emerge. The ROKG should be making an effort to speed up dialogue as a matter of the highest priority."

TOKOLA